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Spring 2010

Check it out! Library Newsletter, Spring 2010

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Check it out! Library Newsletter

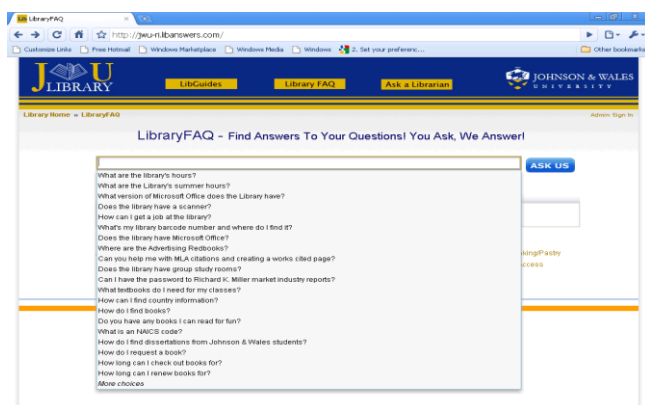


Have You Tried **Library FAQ?**

It's clear that students love getting help from the library using IM and texting. Since launching these services JWU librarians have noted the numbers of IM and texting transactions increasing monthly. But how can a student get help when the library is closed? One way is by using **Library FAQ**, a JWU Library web-based Q&A service that can store hundreds of commonly asked questions and answers. So far there are **106**, including:

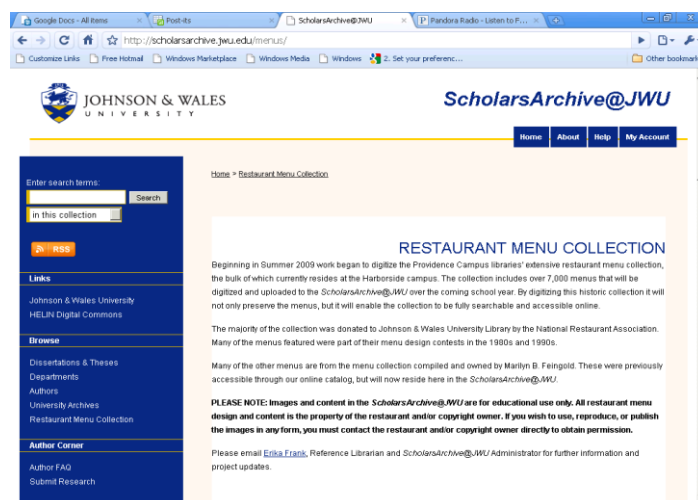
- Does the library have Microsoft Office?
- Where are the Advertising Redbooks?
- How do I find dissertations by JWU students?
- Can you help me with MLA citations?
- What is an NAICS code?
- What textbooks do I need for my classes?

And many more! Anyone can start typing a question in the site's search box. If any of the keywords match keywords in previously asked questions, those questions and answers will be displayed. If none of the Q&As meet the asker's needs, they will then see the option to enter their own question and get an e-mail response within 24 hours. Try it at <http://jwu-ri.libanswers.com/>



Restaurant Menus Online

The **Scholar's Archive @ JWU** is gaining national recognition as a source of important research information for anyone interested in what restaurant menus can tell us about culture, society and food. Through the ongoing efforts of reference librarian **Erika Frank**, more than 600 menus from around the world and representing a range of different decades of the 20th century, are now digitized and available for viewing by anyone with access to an Internet connection.



Since summer 2009, Frank has been working on a project to digitize the entire JWU collection of 7,000+ menus, many donated by the **National Restaurant Association**. For easy browsing, the menus in the Scholar's Archive are organized by some 53 separate categories, including various ethnic cuisines as well as such specialties as: Catering, Banquet & Events; Diners & Roadside; Hospitals & Healthcare; Prix Fixe; Tapas; Transportation, and more. All of the menu images can also be found through **Encore**, the library's online catalog discovery platform. For direct viewing, go to <http://scholarsarchive.jwu.edu/menus/>

Meet Mr. Brown, '97, B.A. '00, M.A.T. '02

Fred Brown, Reference Management Librarian, has been a fixture at the Harborside Campus Library since July 2000. As a student at JWU, Fred earned a degree in Culinary Arts in 1997, a Food Service Management B.A. in 2000, and a Master's of Teaching in 2002. While employed as a student assistant at the library, he discovered his true calling and went on to obtain an M.L.I.S. (Master of Library and Information Studies) from the University of Rhode Island in 2006.

Brown was born on Conanicut Island in Jamestown, Rhode Island. A "foodie" in every sense of the word, Brown loves to cook, talk about cooking, and listen to students as they enthusiastically describe their latest culinary creations. His favorite cuisine is Southern Italian, and **Mussels Aioli** is his favorite dish. With his daughter, Brown enjoys all types of seafood, especially while vacationing on Cape Cod. When visiting his grandmother's farm in Alabama, Brown often takes road trips and stops along the way to sample the local foods. He says of the farm, "It's beautiful and peaceful," but when asked what he would do if he won the lottery it's not about setting himself up with a vacation spot. "Making sure my daughter is financially set for life would be my top priority," says Brown. A devoted father, Brown travels to Florida each year to watch his daughter participate in a high profile national gymnastics competition.

Asked what he likes best about working at JWU, Brown says, "I enjoy the cultural enrichment and new friends; even though the students are the ones who are here to learn and obtain a degree, I learn just as much from them, and am always making new connections. I love the library! I enjoy working with the international students, helping them succeed with their school work. I especially love trying to track down answers to unusual questions. It's great to teach students how to use the tools we provide for them, and then watch as they become independent and self-sufficient researchers." While Mr. Brown talks, the library is buzzing with activity.

For recreation, Brown likes to read Sci-Fi and Fantasy. His favorite author is Terry Goodkind who has written such books as *Law of Nines*, *Phantom*, and *Wizard's First Rule*.



Brown also enjoys **Second Life**—a virtual reality program where he participates in *Association of College and Research Libraries* VR activities— but where for fun he also builds castles and gardens on his own virtual land.

In real life, Brown is an avid sailor. On display in his office at the Harborside Library are posters of the Rhode Island seashore, in addition to his collection of figurines of famous sci-fi characters. A multifaceted, enthusiastic dynamo, Brown is most often found on the computer network, surrounded by students clamoring for his attention. Brown has published several **LibGuides** on Culinary Arts and Nutrition. Faculty also ask for him by first name, enjoying the very personalized research assistance he provides and because he will e-mail them when a new book, journal or video arrives that he knows will be of interest to them.

Whether you want to chat about cooking, get help finding business articles, or just bounce ideas off a good listener, you'll always find Brown cheerful and ready to assist at JWU Library.



Photo: Fred Brown, doing what he does best... helping a student.

